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REVIEWS OF RECENT LITERATURE.

ANTHROPOLOGY.

Payne's New World.—The second volume of this work, composed by an Oxfordian scholar, was published last year, and for its great intrinsic value deserves an extended notice; indeed there are but few historic works treating about this western continent that are written in a more careful and painstaking spirit. The full title is: *Edward John Payne, History of the New World, called America*, Vol. II. Oxford, at the Clarendon Press, 1899; octavo, pp. 27, 548. The volume begins with a sociological discussion on the pre-Columbian condition of the American tribes, their warrior and peasant classes, and the origin of the industrial class. Woman was the primitive laborer; she became enslaved by capture or by purchase, and the marriage question in the earliest epochs was nothing but a part of the problem of the food quest. The organization of the laboring class and the distribution of slaves and of land form another sociological chapter well worth studying. Then follows the discussion on the origin of the tribe, the horde, the family, the clan, the great house, together with the tribal migrations and the motives impelling peoples to migrate. The headings of subsequent sections of the work are as follows: Antiquity of Man in America; Ethnological Unity of the Aborigines; Origin and Process of Language; Material Aspect of Speech; Adaptation of Elementary Movements to Articulation; Mechanics of Language—Repetition; Original Aspects of Personality; Dynamics of the Holophrase; Differentiation of the Noun and Verb; Dispersonalization; Distinction of Number in Objects; Primitive Applications of Arithmetic; Calendars or Time-reckoning; Mexican Calendar; Spread of Man over the New World; History of the Nahuatlacâ (Mexicans); First Nahuatlacan Immigrants; Aculhuan Pueblos of the Plateau; The Valley of Mexico; The Aztecs; Peruvian Advancement.

To give our readers an idea how interestingly the material is handled by Payne, we transcribe what he says about agricultural communities, exclusively composed of women (pp. 10, 11), as have been discovered in many parts of the inhabited earth. "Such communities were formed, it would seem, by the same process of spon-

taneous emigration, derived their continuity from periodical visits, usually once a year and lasting for a month in the spring, by males from other tribes. Columbus, while coasting Haiti (1493), heard of such a community from an Indian who visited him on board the *Niña*. The account was precise; the women of 'Matinino' admitted annually, as temporary members of their tribe, a certain number of male visitors, who carried back with them, on departing, the male children born in each interval, the women retaining the girls to replenish their own society (Las Casas, *Historia*, Vol. I, p. 434). Later accounts afford a body of evidence strongly tending to prove the existence of such societies in the valley of the mighty stream on which these communities have indelibly stamped the name of River of Amazona. He who summarily rejects these accounts knows little of the realities of the transition from savagery to barbarism. Women, as the Spaniards often found to their cost, can use the bow and arrow not less effectively than men. In possession of this deadly weapon, as well as of the materials of subsistence, they might easily form independent communities, and maintain them by the means adopted by the South American Amazons for an indefinite period. When women, says Southey, have been accustomed to accompany their husbands to battle, there is nothing that can be thought improbable in their establishing themselves as an independent race and thus securing that freedom for their daughters which they had obtained for themselves."

It is important to notice that one-half at least of the volume treats of linguistics. The languages of the American natives are analyzed and, as to their mental capacities, compared with those of the Old World.

Some are possessed of highly polysynthetic features, whereas others have scarcely attained the lower degrees of agglutination. A few of their number may be called analytic, like those of the Maya family, but the majority are synthetic.

A. S. GATSCHE.

ZOOLOGY.

Koelliker's Reminiscences.—The reminiscences of a long life of interesting and worthy activity form the latest volume from Professor Koelliker.¹ The book contains a little over four hundred pages, of

¹ Koelliker, A. *Erinnerungen aus meinem Leben*. Leipzig, W. Engelmann. 1899. vi + 399 pp., 8 plates, and 10 text-figures.